

## Postal Regulatory Commission

Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

### NOTICE OF FILING UNDER 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)

TO THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE:

Please take notice that on October 28, 2011, the Commission received a petition for review of the Postal Service's determination to close the Deer Grove post office located in Deer Grove, Illinois. The petition for review was filed by Galen R. Hooper (Petitioner) and is postmarked October 20, 2011.

This notice is advisory only and is being furnished so that the Postal Service may begin assembling the administrative record in advance of any formal appeal proceedings held upon the alleged (closing/consolidation) for transmittal pursuant to 39 CFR § 3001.113(a) (requiring the filing of the record within 15 days of the filing with the Commission of a petition for review). The Postal Service's administrative record is due no later than November 14, 2011.



Shoshana M. Grove  
Secretary

Date: November 8, 2011

Attachment

A2012-44

**NOTICE OF APPEAL OF CLOSING  
DEER GROVE, IL 61243 POST OFFICE**

2011 OCT 28 P 12:35

October 20, 2011

POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION  
901 NEW YORK AVENUE NW SUITE 200  
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

POSTAL REGULATORY  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

I want to start off by informing everyone that I am not a lawyer, as you probably will all know after reading my appeal, but I am a postal customer of the Deer Grove, IL 61243 Post Office that thinks you are making a big mistake by closing the office. The volume of mail has picked up a lot and we do not want you to destroy the rural communities by closing the small rural Post Offices.

The Postal Service has informed us of a decision to close our post office by December 17, 2011. This action is being taken after meeting the provisions of the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970, and over our protestations. We, the customers of the Deer Grove, Illinois Post Office, vigorously protest this action, in view of the provision in the Postal Reorganization Act that calls for the Postal Service to provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal service to rural areas, communities and small towns where the post office is not self-sustaining.

The Postal Service's decision to close our post office and provide rural delivery service raises questions concerning the sanctity of the mail and the risks involved in the handling of mail by non-career employees. We also foresee inconveniences in purchasing money orders and stamps, and sending accountable mail. We have the same concerns regarding the receipt of accountable mail, such as certified letters, registered letters and CODs.

Our rural area is well populated with several Amish families which do not use the World Wide Web on their computers so they can not go on the USPS web site and transact any business. Why would you want to take away the convenience of them having a Post Office near by to take their mailings to? They own small businesses that ship through the USPS but with the closing of the Deer Grove Post Office I have heard some of them say they will take their business to UPS. The seniors in town depend on the nearby Post Office especially in bad weather. Some of them don't drive so you are going to cause a hardship on those to get their mail and some of them get their medicine in the mail.

Received

OCT 25 2011

Office of PAGR

Using the carriers as "POST OFFICES on WHEELS" is not going to work very good in the rural areas as we do not have time to stand by our mailboxes waiting on the carrier to show up. There is no way that they can be at our place the same time every day. There is no way that I would put \$500.00 cash in the mail box in the morning for the carrier to leave me a \$500.00 money order. No one knows where my money would end up. Anyone driving by could stop and take the money. This is completely insane to think anyone would put money in the box for a money order. I can go to Post Office in Deer Grove when I take crops to elevator which is next door to Post Office.

The Village Post Office would certainly not provide "the maximum degree of service" required by law for rural communities. You will have people handling mail that are in no way held accountable. How would we ever find out what happened to our checks or other stuff if it came up missing. The small businesses would still have to take time to run to the other Post Office to send out any thing that needed to be weighted and postage put on. The Village Post Office is a "joke" to the public and will really hurt the reputation of the Postal Service and therefore take more mailings and packages away and send them to UPS & Fed Ex.

The Postal Service's decision to consolidate our post office with the Tampico, Illinois Post Office is being done over our objections. This will mean the loss of our identity as a community. We will not have a postmaster to whom we can take our problems, complaints and compliments. We will be directed to a distant postmaster in the home office of our station. We cannot see any savings to the Postal Service under this arrangement. The clerk in charge of the station will be earning as much as our postmaster and, more than likely, will not be a resident of our community.

Why are the small businesses that we have in the rural area being singled out for poorer service getting their mailings out? They do not have time to take off and drive to the other Post Office to do business with them. The time driving to the other town is money they have lost at their office not even counting the cost of gas for them. Sure this might help the Post Office but sure will hurt the small businesses in our area.

The local Post Office in Deer Grove, IL is the heart and soul of the town. I really feel that if you close down our small Post Offices due to financial reasons, that we will lose our daily communication and spirit in our small community, but crucially, our identity. For a lot of the elderly in our community, coming to the Post Office is the highlight of their whole day, possibly the only contact they make everyday. Even if they didn't get any mail, they still had the opportunity to speak with neighbors and friends, that gives them a feeling of worth and community belonging, which is crucial for their mental health when their lives are more sedentary after retirement. Many people depend on getting medicine in the mail also. Small town postmasters go the extra mile to help the community above and beyond their call of duty; the community values and depends on that postmaster for their sincere help unconditionally. If the seniors miss a day or

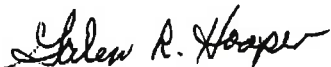
two coming to Post Office, the Post Master calls to make sure they are alright. Without there being a Post Office here we will lose this personal touch which is becoming a thing of the past. It seems that all anyone cares about any more is the money.

Closing thousands of small Post Offices will not stop the red ink. Only when the Post Office gets to quit pre-funding the retiree health benefits for people 75 years into the future and then the Government taking this money and using it for government programs, then and only then will we see them turning a profit. Don't blame the workers. Our Government has spent all this money and it would add to the deficit if they were to give it back to the Postal Service. So instead of the Government supporting the Postal Service, as many people think, it is the other way around, the Postal Service is supporting the Federal Government.

I just feel that closing thousands of rural post offices, instead of helping to bind the country together, will end up "dividing the nation asunder."

We feel that, as citizens of the United States, we are entitled to the same efficient postal service provided to our counterparts in urban areas. The Postal Reorganization Act is explicit in pointing this out. We petition you, as members of the Postal Regulatory Commission, to respectfully consider our protest and order the Postal Service to give additional considerations to our service needs.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Galen R. Hooper".

Galen R Hooper  
P O Box 34  
Deer Grove, IL 61243